



GAIL FARBER, Director

COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

"To Enrich Lives Through Effective and Caring Service"

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August 23, 2010

IN REPLY PLEASE

REFER TO FILE: T-0

TO: Each Supervisor

FROM: Gail Farber
Director of Public Works

**BOARD MOTION OF AUGUST 24, 2010, ITEM NO. 17-C
INSTALLATION OF TRAFFIC SIGNAL
INTERSECTION OF VIA PRINCESSA AND SWAN LANE**

Item 17-C on your Board's August 24, 2010, agenda is a motion directing Public Works to install a traffic signal at the intersection of Via Princessa and Swan Lane. Consistent with your Board's adopted policy, we are informing you of the following.

In 1998, during Public Works' consideration of the Fair Oaks Ranch development proposal, we required Pardee Homes to enter into a secured agreement for a traffic signal at the intersection of Via Princessa and Swan Lane. It is also our understanding that the area's homeowners association has received assurance from Pardee Homes that they would finance the cost of this traffic signal. The secured agreement and the agreement between the homeowner's association and Pardee Homes, both stipulate that the traffic signal would only be installed when traffic conditions warrant its placement as determined by the local government authority. Consequently, Public Works performed a traffic signal warrant analyses at this intersection in May 2005, December 2008, and July 2010. Each study disclosed that none of the nationally recognized warrants used to determine the need for a traffic signal were satisfied.

If you have any questions, please call me or your staff may contact Patrick V. DeChellis, Deputy Director, at (626) 458-4004.

PJB:sd

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cc: Chief Executive Office (William T Fujioka, Lisa Rizzo)
County Counsel
Executive Office

AGN. NO. _____

MOTION BY SUPERVISOR MICHAEL D. ANTONOVICH

AUGUST 24, 2010

The intersection of Via Princessa and Swan Lane is located in the unincorporated Canyon Country area. Due to the recent opening of nearby "big box" retail development, traffic volume on Via Princessa has increased tremendously in the last two years with a forecast for higher volumes in the future. The elevation drop from the top of Via Princessa down to Swan Lane is significant, adding to the speed of drivers as they descend toward Lost Canyon Road. The pedestrians that utilize both Via Princessa and Swan Lane, including children who walk to the adjacent park and the nearby elementary school, must deal with this very pedestrian-unfriendly environment.

Despite signage alerting motorists of a 25-mph zone when children are present, there continues to be a speeding problem along Via Princessa. Additionally, some drivers seem to be inattentive to pedestrians and park users. Fortunately, the homeowner's association foresaw many of these concerns and established an agreement with this area's developer, Pardee Homes, to finance the cost of a traffic signal at the intersection. As envisioned, it will encourage greater numbers of pedestrians to cross Via Princessa in order to access the newly constructed neighborhood park.

The County must take whatever steps are necessary to encourage a pedestrian-friendly environment in Canyon Country. The concerns received by my office suggest that installing a traffic signal at Via Princessa and Swan Lane is essential to enhancing motorist and pedestrian safety.

Pardee Homes has agreed to fund the traffic signal pending authorization from the County. It should be noted that if the County does not approve the installation soon, then these private sector funds would likely be unavailable. Therefore, it is critical that the County move forward with an approval to install a traffic signal.

I, THEREFORE, MOVE that the Board of Supervisors direct the Director of Public Works to install a traffic signal at the intersection of Via Princessa and Swan Lane using funding provided by Pardee Homes.

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MDA:pno
trafficsignalviaprincessa/swanlane082410

MOTION

RIDLEY-THOMAS _____

YAROSLAVSKY _____

KNABE _____

ANTONOVICH _____

MOLINA _____